



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

17 OCT 2005

Mr. Bruce McKeeman, Superintendent
Herbert Hoover National Historic Site
110 Parkside Drive, PO Box 607
West Branch, IA 52358

Dear Mr. McKeeman:

RE: EPA Review of Draft Hoover Creek Stream Management Plan and
Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

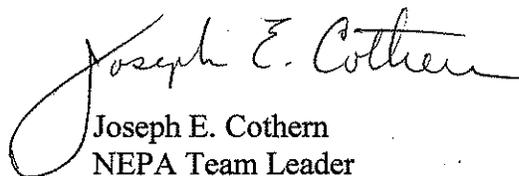
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the subject proposal. Our review is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. 4231, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The DEIS was assigned the CEQ number 20050390.

The DEIS analyzes alternatives to address flood protection to Historic resources at the Herbert Hoover Historic Site, which is located in West Branch, Iowa. Four action alternatives and the no-action alternative are discussed in the DEIS. The action alternatives discussed in the DEIS consist of: Alternative B - Provide 10-Year Flood Protection, Alternative C - Provide 15-Year Flood Protection, Alternative D - Provide 25-Year Flood Protection, and Alternative E - Provide 50 -Year Flood Protection. The Preferred alternative is stated to be Alternative E.

Based on the procedures EPA uses to evaluate the potential effects of proposed actions and the adequacy of the information in the DEIS, the Preferred Alternative will be listed in the Federal Register in the category 'LO' or 'lack of objections' (see enclosure for EPA ratings criteria and definitions). The rating means that EPA's review did not identify potential environmental impacts that require substantive changes to the proposal. EPA does note that Appendix D highlights the role of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in maintenance of water quality, but is not specific to the need for a stormwater permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Such permits are required for soil disturbance over 1 acre in size. Please ensure coordination with IDNR on specific permitting and erosion control requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If EPA can be of further assistance, please contact me at (913) 551-7148 or cothern.joe@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph E. Cothorn". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joseph E. Cothorn
NEPA Team Leader
Environmental Services Division